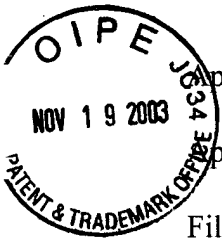


P24077.A01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicants : Shinnosuke NAKAHARA et al.

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Appln. No : 10/642,684

Examiner: Unknown

Filed : August 19, 2003

For : INTERVERTEBRAL CAGE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby call the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 9-503416, published on April 8, 1997, together with English language patent family member U.S. Patent No. 5,397,364 to KOZAK et al., issued on March 14, 1995. Applicants note that this document is discussed on page 1 of the specification of the instant application.

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2002-095685, published on April 2, 2002, together with an English language Abstract of the same.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider and cite the patent documents. Copies of the above-noted documents are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicants with

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the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention the following copending and commonly assigned patent application:

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/642,756 to SATO et al., entitled "Intervertebral Spacer", filed on August 19, 2003.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(iii), a copy of the above-mentioned application is attached hereto. However, the Examiner is also requested to review the file wrapper of this U.S. patent application at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record, if any, cited therein.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Shinnosuke NAKAHARA et al.

Will E. Lyall Reg. No.
41,568
Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

November 12, 2003
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

Form PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office		Atty. Docket No. P24077		Serial No. 10/642,684								
<div><div>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)</div><div><div>NOV 19 2003</div><div>U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE</div></div></div>				Applicant S. NAKAHARA et al.										
				Filing Date August 19, 2003		Group Unknown								
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS														
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER				DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE				
		5	3	9	7	3	6	4	03/14/95	KOZAK et al.				
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS														
		DOCUMENT NUMBER				DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO				
		9	-	5	0	3	4	1	6	04/08/97	JAPAN			
200		2	-	0	9	5	6	8	5	04/02/02	JAPAN			
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)														
		1	ENGLISH LANGUAGE ABSTRACT OF JP-2002-095685.											
EXAMINER						DATE CONSIDERED								
*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.														